

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 TRSE-00 /058 W

----- 124979

R 100836Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6020

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4165

JOINT EMBASSY/MAAG MESSAGE

EO 11652 GDS 81

TAGS MASS TW

SUBJECT EX-VNN VESSELS FOR ROCN

1. REPUBLIC OF CHINA NAVY HAS PRESENTED TO MAAG A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN ACQUIRING THE EX-VNN VESSELS LISTED AS FOLLOWS (SELECTED FROM LIST OF CINCPACFLT MSG 040131Z MAY 75, NOT SENT TO STATE):

- A. SIX FRIGATES (EX-USCG WHEC'S).
- B. THREE PCE'S (EX-USN 180 FT. PCE TYPES).
- C. TWO PC'S (EX-USN 170 FT. PC TYPES).
- D. ONE PGM (100 FT. PATROL BOAT BUILT IN US FOR FOREIGN TRANS-FER).

2. ROCN REQUEST STATES THAT DIESEL-POWERED CRAFT ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RELIEVE THE ROCN DD-PF SQUADRONS FROM MUCH OF THE COASTAL AND HARBOR PATROL AND ESCORT REQUIREMENTS. THE REQUEST FRUTHER STATES THAT ONLY THE SHIPS IN REASONABLE CONDITION WOULD BE COMMISSIONED, WITH THE REMAINDER TO BE STRIPPED FOR USABLE SPARES AND SCRAPPED.

3. ROCN COASTAL AND HARBOR PATROLS WERE CONDUCTED UP TO A FEW YEARS AGO BY EX-US DE-PC TYPES. FMS ACQUISITION OF
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EX-US DESTROYERS REQUIRED THAT MOST OF THESE PATROL CRAFT

BE DECOMMISSIONED AS A CONDITION OF SALE. PRESENT EMPHASIS ON COASTAL PATROL AND ADDITIONAL CONCERNS OVER OFFSHORE OIL INDUSTRY VULNERABILITY ARE PLACING A HEAVY BURDEN ON ROCN COMBATANT FORCE. DD/PF O ANDM COSTS ARE HIGH COMPARED TO SMALLER DIESEL-POWERED PATROL CRAFT. ADDITIONALLY, THE OPERATING SCHEDULE REQUIRED OF THE DD/PF TYPES IN ORDER TO MEET PATROL REQUIREMENTS IS RESULTING IN A GENERAL DEGRADATION OF OVERALL ROCN COMBATANT FORM MATERIEL READINESS.

4. DUE TO SLOW SPEED AND LIGHT ARMAMENT OF THESE SHIPS, EMPLOYMENT WILL BE FOR COASTAL PATROL OF TAIWAN AND PENGHU ISLANDS WITH EMPHASIS ON HARBOR PATROL AND PROTECTION OF OFF-SHORE OIL RIGS FROM INFILTRATION AND SABOTAGE.

5. PERSONNEL LIMITATIONS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE ROCN TO DEACTIVATE SOME CURRENT SHIPS TO PROVIDE CREWS FOR ANY OF THE SUBJECT SHIPS WHICH MIGHT BE ACTIVATED IN ROCN.

6. COUNTRY TEAM SUPPORTS SALE OF SUBJECT VESSELS TO ROC.
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Message Attributes

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